GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1376
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
USE OF MERCURY IN MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to phase Out the use of toxic metal-mercury which is currently in use in medical instruments in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to frame any policy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) The Drugs Controller General (India) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been entrusted with the regulation of only 10 different types of medical devises which are used inside the human body and these do not contain the toxic metal mercury.However,the Government has already introduced the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2007 in the Rajya Sabha which aims at, inter alia, creating a Central Drugs Authority of india. The Bill contains provisions for further expansion of the definition of drug to include medical devices and regulation of their standards by the proposed Central Drugs Authority.